The Aluminum Situation

A Monthly Publication of
The Aluminum Association, Inc., 818 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006

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Notice: As this issue went to press, the Bureau of the Census had not yet published shipment or inventory data for February or March, 1980. Consequently, our estimates include three straight months without benefit of recent confirming data, and should be read with this in mind. Order and trade data are current.

Shipments Down 1.8 Per Cent

Net shipments of aluminum ingot and mill products through April, 1980 at an estimated 5,035 million pounds were 1.8% less than shipments of 5,127 million pounds for 4 months of 1979.

Domestic shipments totalled 4,451 million pounds through April, 1980, representing a decline of 7.0% from the 4,784 million pounds shipped in the first 4 months of 1979.

Thru April, 1980

	4 Mos. 1980	4 Mos. 1979	% Change
Mill Products	3,805	4,078	− 6.7
Ingot	1,230	1,049	+17.3
Total	5,035	5,127	− 1.8
Less Exports	−584	−343	+70.3
Domestic Total	4,451	4,784	− 7.0

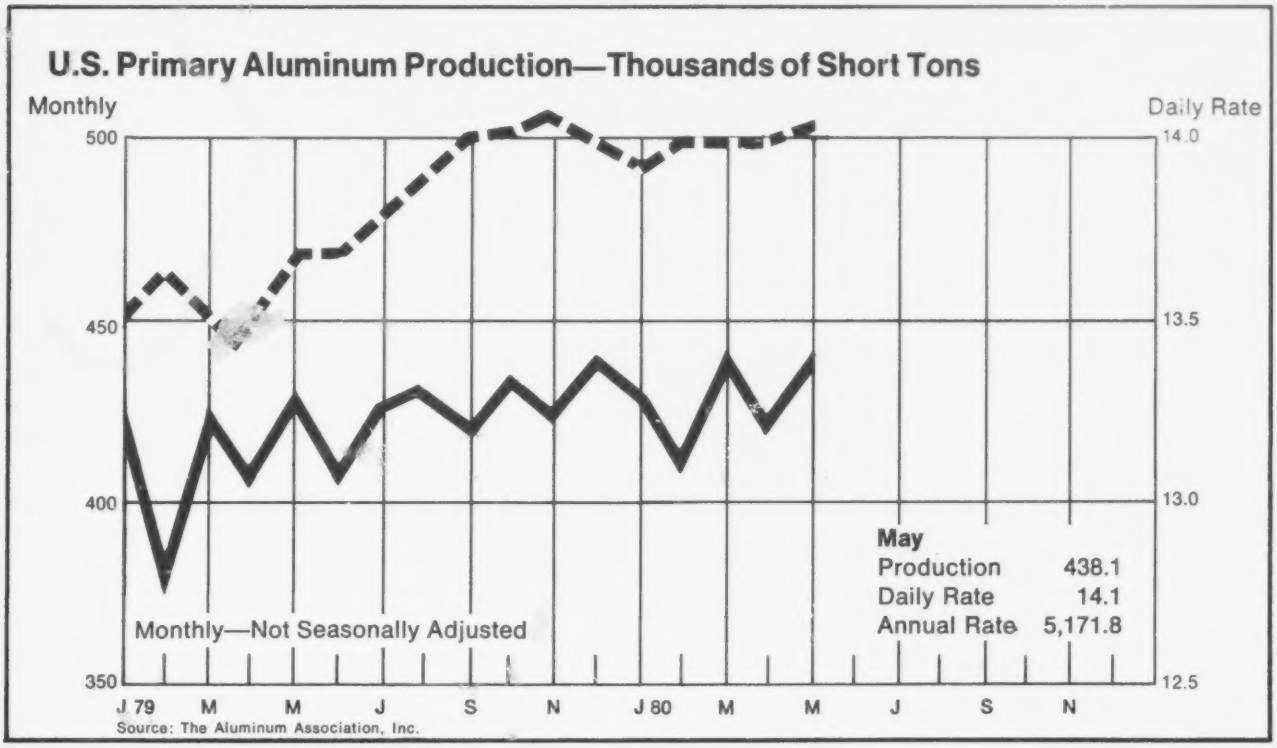
Millions of Pounds

Source: Latest three months estimated by the Aluminum Association. Previous data—Bureau of the Census

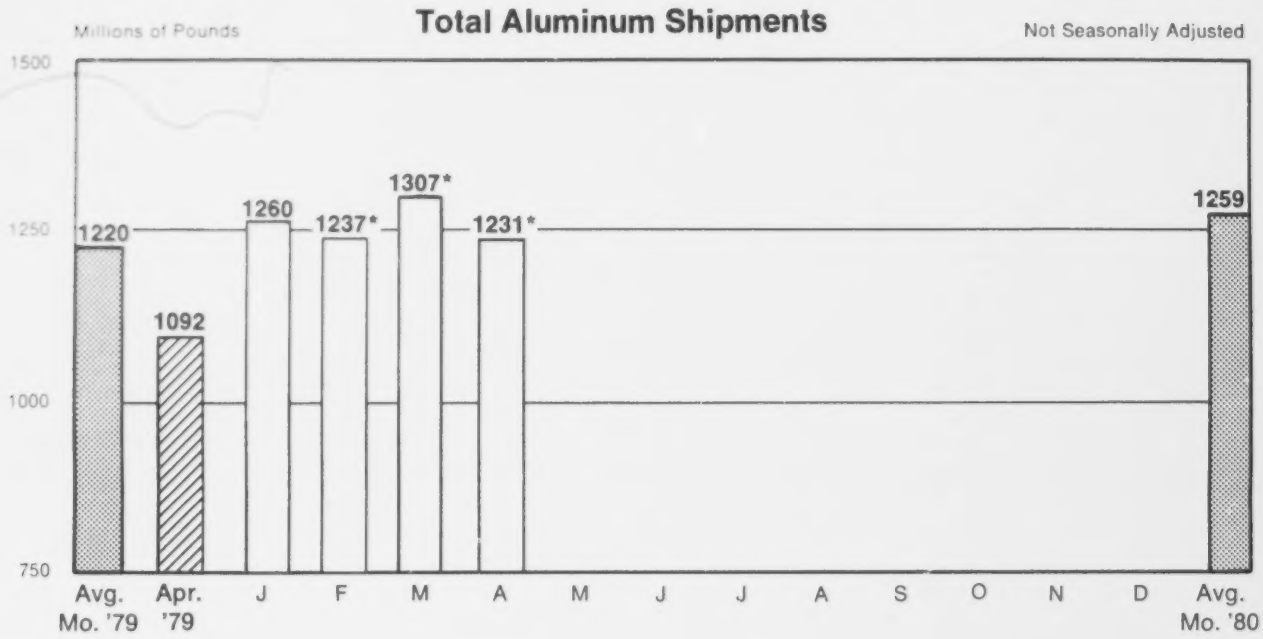
Primary Production Rate Up 3.5 Per Cent

U.S. primary aluminum production averaged 14,131 short tons daily during May, 1980, vs. 13,657 in May, 1979.

The annual rate of production in May, 1980 was 5,171,816 tons, compared to 4,984,923 tons in May, 1979. Actual production in May, 1980 was 438,050 tons vs. 423,377 tons in May, 1979.



Aluminum Association total industry estimates are based on information reported by members, which is aggregated by the Association and then expanded to total industry data utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. While the Association believes that its statistical procedures and methods are reliable, it does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the data. All data contained herein are subject to revision.



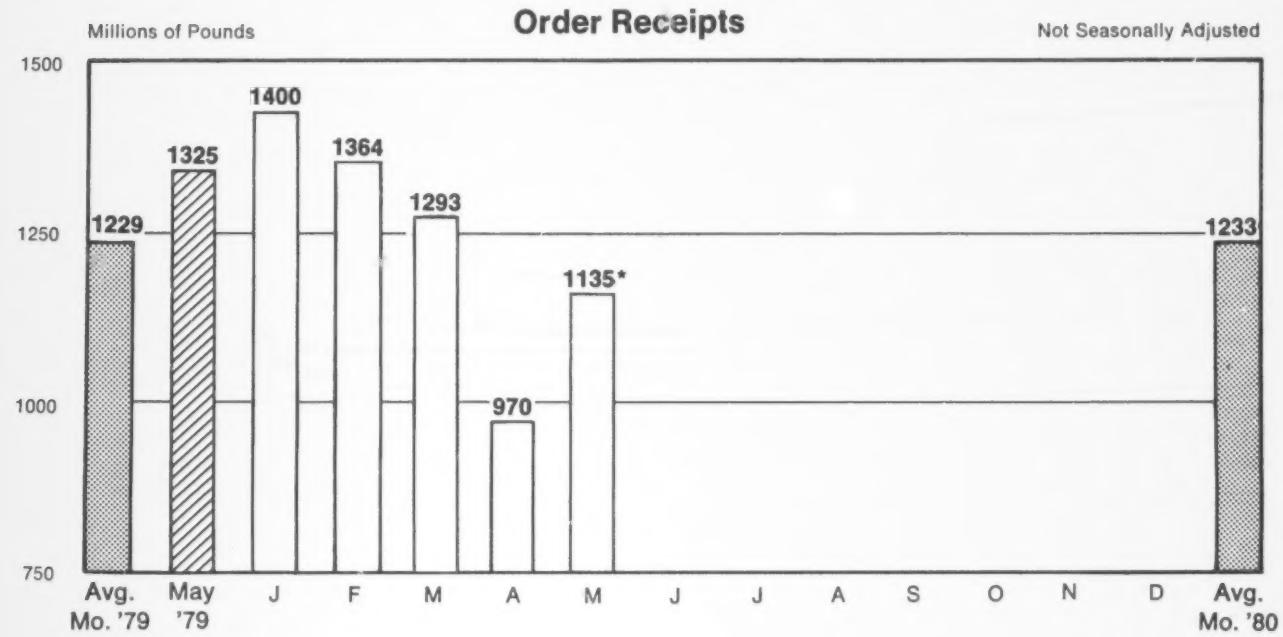
Net Shipments
(Millions of Pounds)

	1980 April*	1980 March*	1979 April	% Change Latest Month 1980 v. 1979
Sheet & Plate	529.0	543.0	523.6	+ 1.0
Foil	69.0	83.0	75.3	− 8.4
Rod, Bar & Wire	41.0	43.0	29.0	+41.4
Electrical Conductor	74.0	72.0	70.3	+ 5.3
Extruded Products	196.0	193.0	210.0	− 6.7
Welded Tube	7.0	7.0	7.4	− 5.4
Powder & Pigments	9.0	11.0	10.3	−12.6
Forgings & Impacts	11.0	13.0	12.7	−13.4
Net Imports of Mill Products (Total) (a)	10.0	12.0	35.8	−72.1
Total Mill Products	946.0	977.0	974.5	− 2.9
Ingot	285.0(b)	330.0(b)	202.5	+40.7
TOTAL INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS	1,231.0	1,307.0	1,177.0	+ 4.6
Exports	(162.3)	(158.8)	(85.1)	+90.7
TOTAL DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS	1,068.7	1,148.2	1,091.9	− 2.1

* Latest three months estimated by the Aluminum Association.
Previous data—Bureau of the Census and Department of Commerce.
(a) Not included in product data above.
(b) Sufficient data not available for reliable estimate. Implicit in this item is a 10 to 25% variation.

April Shipments Up 4.6 Per Cent vs. Year Ago

Total April net shipments of 1,231 million pounds were up an estimated 4.6% vs. April, 1979. However, April, 1980 was 5.8% lower than March. Domestic shipments were 2.1% below April, 1979, and 6.9% lower than March, 1980.



Order Receipts
Millions of Pounds

	1980 May*	1980 April*	1979 May	% Change Latest Month 1980 v. 1979
Can Stock	227.3	223.7	199.5	+ 13.9
Sheet & Plate, Other	159.5	168.9	320.5	− 50.2
Foil	47.5	60.2	68.0	− 30.1
Rod, Bar & Wire	20.7	29.2	47.7	− 56.6
Electrical Conductor	79.8	46.0	69.1	+ 15.5
Extruded Products	147.7	159.0	243.1	− 39.2
Primary Ingot	84.0	79.1	76.5	+ 9.8
Other (Including Secondary Ingot)	159.7	83.0	202.2	− 21.0
TOTAL DOMESTIC	926.2	849.1	1,226.6	− 24.5
Exports	208.9	121.0	98.0	+113.2
TOTAL ALL PRODUCTS	1,135.1	970.1	1,324.6	− 14.3

Source: The Association estimates total industry orders, based on weekly reports by members of new orders (less cancellations) received. The Association expands these data to total industry utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. Weekly data are available upon request.

* Latest month.
r-revised.

May Orders Were Up 17.0 Per Cent Over April, 1980

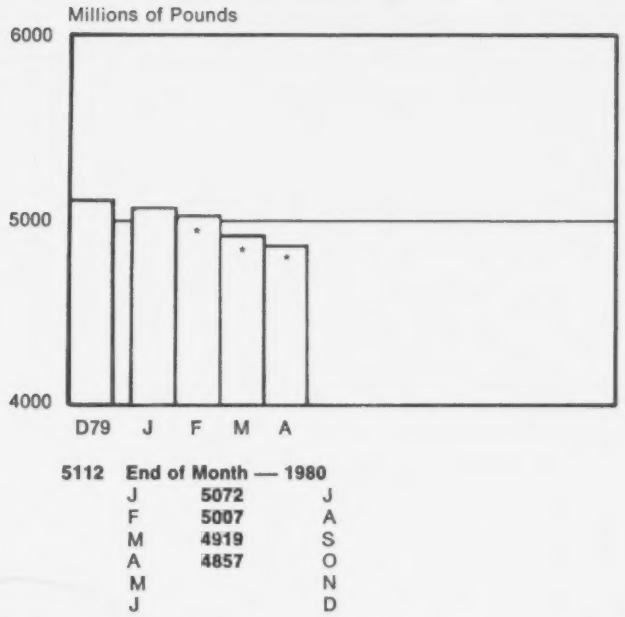
May order receipts at 1,135 million pounds were 17.0% higher than April, 1980. However, they registered a 14.3% decline from year ago May, 1979.

Producer Stocks Down in April

Producer inventories declined an estimated 62 million pounds in April, 1980, from an estimated 4,919 million pounds in March to an estimated 4,857 million pounds.

Integrated producer stocks went down 60 million pounds. Secondary smelters' and nonintegrateds' stocks together dropped an estimated 2 million pounds.

Inventories



Producer Inventories
(Millions of Pounds)

Producers	Apr. '80*	Mar. '80*	Apr. '80 vs. Year End '79
Integrateds	3,937	3,997	−187
Smelters	215	222	− 19
Nonintegrated	705	700	− 49
TOTAL	4,857	4,919	−255

* Latest three months estimated by Aluminum Association. Previous data—Bureau of the Census. Inventories include ingot, mill products and scrap.

Imports and Exports
(Millions of Pounds)

		1980 April	1980 March	1979 April	% Change Latest Month 1980 v. 1979
Imports	Mill Products	14.4	16.6r	48.7r	− 70.4
	Ingot	90.7	95.6	88.3	+ 2.7
	TOTAL	105.1	112.2r	137.0r	− 23.3
	Scrap (+ dross)	11.0	11.8	9.6	+ 14.6
Exports	Mill Products	57.7	53.2	46.2	+ 24.9
	Ingot	104.6	105.6	38.8	+169.6
	TOTAL	162.3	158.8	85.0	+ 90.9
	Scrap	80.0	88.6	48.8	+ 63.9
Net Imports		(126.2)	(123.0)r	12.8r	−985.9

Source: Department of Commerce, Industry Trade Administration and Bureau of the Census. Both imports and exports exclude backed foil.
r—revised

The Census summary for 1979, released May 1, is being revised as a result of reporting errors discovered after release of the publication. Some 1978 and 1979 monthly and annual figures will be affected. The revised report will be issued as soon as it can be thoroughly reviewed and necessary corrections made.